

for sleeping, first for use by individuals, then by pairs, parents with fledglings, parents with self-supporting young, and in the final stage by larger groups. Skutch is almost certainly correct in maintaining that dormitories originated from breeding nests, but it seems unlikely that the sequence he lays out was always followed in evolution; for example, there seems no necessity for use of a breeding nest for sleeping by parents always to precede use by fledglings, or for use of a breeding nest by fledglings always to precede use of a nonbreeding nest by pairs. Nevertheless, the system of categories is useful in organizing the facts on dormitory use.

Judged on scientific content, the book suffers from Skutch's reliance on outmoded aspects of evolutionary theory, particularly group selectionism of a primitive type. Further, some readers may be put off by Skutch's readiness to ascribe to birds a variety of human thoughts and emotions. However, these sins of interpretation are minor faults compared to the service Skutch has done in gleaning and compiling the array of observations presented here. Judged as literature, the book is beautifully written, and enlivened by entertaining facts and anecdotes. My only complaint here is that the repetition of examples of particular behaviors can become tedious, as when one reaches the twentieth example of dormitories used as family dwellings. Still, taken individually these examples are fascinating, and they constitute the true attraction of the book. Certain vignettes are wonderful, as for example Skutch's description of his visit to a cavern where Oilbirds (*Steatornis caripensis*) rest by day. After a long walk through tropical forest, Skutch enters the great cavern, whose floor is covered by a strange carpet of seeds, regurgitated by the Oilbirds and now eerily germinating in the darkness. The birds themselves perch on shelves of rock high overhead, so far above that a flashlight reveals "scarcely more than the ruby eyes of dusky birds dimly seen: innumerable pairs of gleaming red eyes, crowded companies of eyes, long ranks of eyes, shining from all the high, inaccessible ledges." Quite apart from the scientific value of the volume, scenes such as this are alone sufficient to make the book rewarding. — WILLIAM A. SEARCY.

INTRODUCING BIRDS TO YOUNG NATURALISTS. By Ilo Hiller. Texas A&M University Press, College Station. 1989:69 pp., 36 color plates, 3 black-and-white plates, 9 figs., 1 table. \$21.50 cloth, \$12.95 paper.—This book is a well-written introduction to bird study emphasizing species of Texas and the southwest. Most of the chapters first appeared in "Texas Parks and Wildlife," and the fine color photographs and self-contained nature of these chapters reflect the original magazine format. Five chapters introduce the reader to bird feathers, eggs, songs, bird houses, and feeders. These are followed by chapters on bluebirds, cardinals and Pyrrhuloxias, woodpeckers, killdeer, owls, roadrunners, cuckoos and anis, doves and pigeons, mockingbirds, jays, and hummingbirds. The writing is at a relatively advanced reading level, so adults will have to read and interpret the content for young children. There are aids for pronunciation and definitions and translations of scientific names. There is no advice on optical equipment or birdwatching technique, although there are chapters on bird houses and feeders. Everyone will enjoy the striking color photographs. — ALBERT R. BUCKELEW JR.

CORRECTION

The authors of the paper "Brood adoption and apparent infanticide in a north-temperate House Wren population" in *The Wilson Bulletin* 102:333–336, 1990, are L. Henry Kermott and L. Scott Johnson.